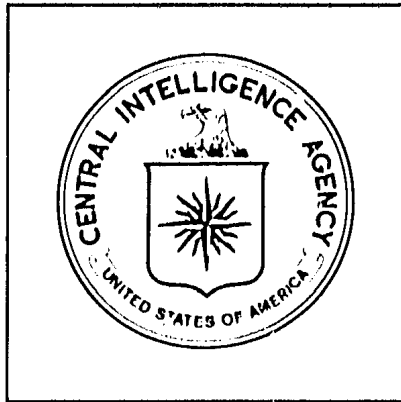


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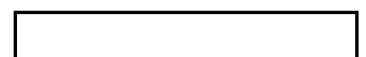
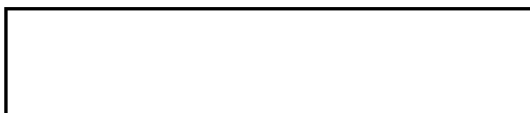
Daily Surveyor

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Top Secret

186

25X1



24 February 1975

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/03/17 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000600200016-8

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SURVEYOR

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OSI-S- 37/75

24 February 1975

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Chinese Apparently Predicted Recent Earthquake: The official Chinese announcement of an earthquake in Liaoning Province on 4 February contained only the usual statement of date, location, magnitude, and general information on effects and actions by relief and scientific teams. Later broadcasts from the province on follow-up actions contain references to forecasts and preparations made before the quake.

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Comment: These references imply that a forecast for the quake was issued with enough confidence that local jurisdictions took measures to reduce damage which may have included evacuation of some areas. There has been no indication of the time or precision of the forecast.

Much information on the high priority Chinese earthquake prediction program has come from several scientific exchanges since 1971. Although all well-known techniques are under study, no significant advances have become apparent. Nevertheless, Western experts have been impressed with the priority and magnitude of the program and the amount of data under study. The Chinese have been fairly open about their program, but they have not revealed the extent or success of any operational prediction efforts. Other sources indicate many prediction attempts since the late 1960s with several successes. There are, however, no indications of a successful prediction of the exact time, place, and magnitude of a quake -- the ultimate goal of all current programs.

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